

REMARKS

Claims 1-27 remain in this application. No claims have been added or cancelled. Claim 26 has been amended. The Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Claim Objections

The Examiner has objected to claim 26 for the following informalities. Applicants submit herein amendments to overcome the reason of objection.

35 U.S.C. §103(a) Rejection – Page

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-27 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,329,619 issued to Pagé et al. (hereinafter referred to as “Pagé”). The Applicants respectfully submit that the present claims are allowable over Pagé.

Claim 1 recites a method comprising “*receiving a request for a service transaction involving a plurality of service providers at a **network transaction portal**; controlling the transaction from the network transaction portal by remotely executing methods associated with the transaction including routing to a plurality of distributed networked objects containing methods associated with the transaction via at least one link through a common network application functionally interposed between a client network access device and the plurality of networked objects that controls the transaction*”. Pagé does not teach or suggest either: (a) a network transaction portal or (b) controlling a transaction from a network transaction portal.

As previously argued, Pagé discusses a cooperative processing interface and communication broker for heterogeneous computing environments (see e.g., Title). As further discussed in the Abstract, Pagé discusses an object interface that supports three modes of inter-object communication--message processing (store and forward), conversational communication, and remote procedure call. A service broker manages service requests from, and responsive services provided by, a plurality of clients and servers, respectively, which may reside on different hardware platforms and operating systems and may be connected to computer networks having different network architectures and associated communications protocols. The broker manages the service offerings from servers and service requests from clients, and clients and servers communicate and exchange information with one another via the broker. The service broker includes different application programming interfaces for allowing participants to access the functionality of the service broker.

Accordingly, Pagé allegedly discusses modes of inter-object communication, managing service requests from clients and responsive services provided by servers, and that clients and servers may communicate and exchange information with one another via the broker. However, as understood by Applicant, Pagé does not teach or suggest a network transaction portal, let alone controlling a transaction from a network transaction portal.

To establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, three basic criteria must be met. First, there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the references or to combine reference teachings. Second, there must be a reasonable expectation of success. Finally, the prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest **all the claim limitations**. The teaching or suggestion to make the

claimed combination and the reasonable expectation of success must both be found in the prior art, and not based on Applicant's disclosure. In re Vaeck, 947 F.2d 488, 20 USPQ2d 1438 (Fed. Cir. 1991).

For at least these reasons, **claim 1** is believed to be allowable over Page. **Claims 2-6 and 26-27** depend from claim 1 and are believed to be allowable therefor, as well as for the recitations independently set forth therein.

Independent **claims 7, 11, 18, and 24** each recite at least a network transaction portal. Accordingly, these independent claims, as well as their dependent claims, are also believed to be allowable for reasons similar to those discussed above.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that all claims now pending patentably define the subject invention over the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request that the rejections be withdrawn and the claims be allowed at the earliest possible date.

Request For Telephone Interview

The Examiner is invited to call Brent E. Vecchia at (303) 740-1980 if there remains any issue with allowance of the case.

Request For An Extension Of Time

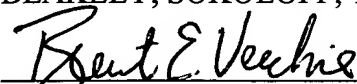
The Applicants respectfully petitions for a two-month extension of time to respond to the outstanding Office Action pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a). A Check in the amount of \$225.00 is enclosed for this purpose.

Charge Our Deposit Account

Please charge any shortage to our Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,
BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

Date: 9-20-05



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